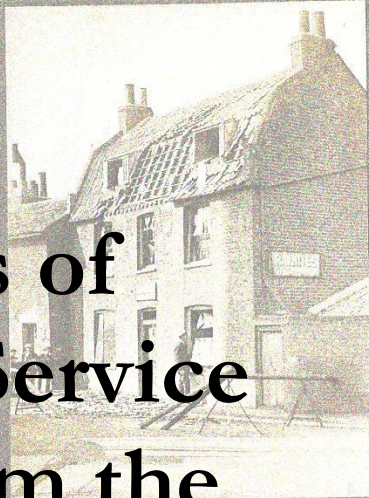
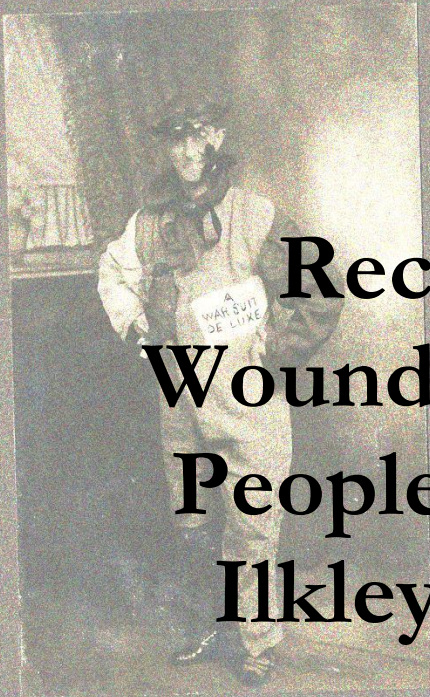


Records of Wounded Service People from the Ilkley Gazette

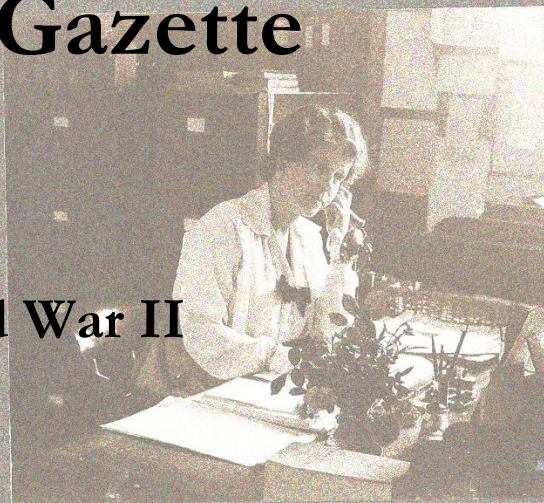


After The Explosion - Sep 20th 1917

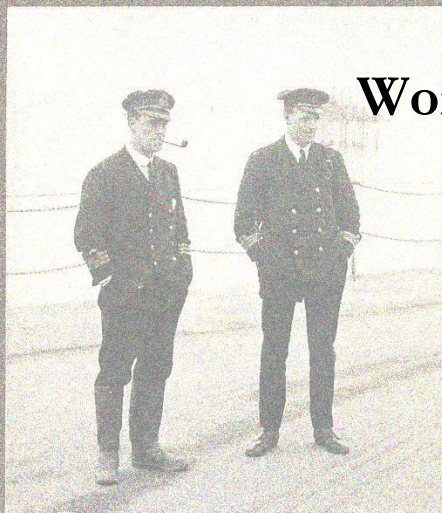


Chief Petty Officer Elite in Fancy Dress

World War II

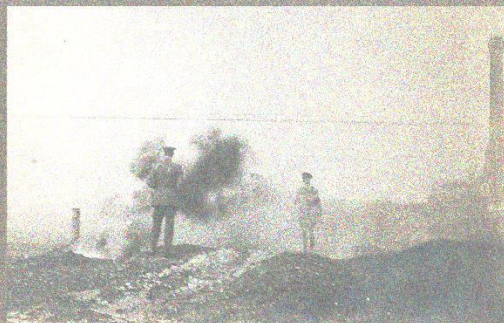


Miss Rowe - Secretary



At Dover

Wing-Commander Brock RN Eng^r Lt-Commander Curre RN
Killed at Zeebrugge 22/4/18



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FOREWORD

By 1914 the Ilkley Gazette had been in print for over 60 years – commencing in May 1861, although archival records only date from January 1868. The paper in peacetime not only covered local news but aspects of national and international news.

During the First World War a few more photographs began to appear and there were accounts of the achievements of the living and dead on the battlefields of Europe, and the Middle East; at sea globally; and increasingly the activities of Ilkley personnel in the Royal Flying Corps (later the RAF).

Adverts were rather sparse, but there were regular messages from government sources. Sport and items of interest to women and children were included along with increasing acknowledgement of women's role in the War. The stories of refugees from war-torn Belgium in Ilkley were covered regularly.

Ilkley even in Wartime was seen as a place to holiday, convalesce, walk the Moors, to take the waters and breathe in unpolluted air. People in the pre-radio era relied on the local papers for a great deal of varied information; and the picture houses also played their part.

I wish to thank Newsquest (Yorkshire and North East) Ltd., various editors and all the staff at the offices of the Ilkley Gazette for their support over the three years of my archival research from the original papers. To Craven Stationery very many thanks for all their hard work on my behalf and Jonathan White, Addingham for proof reading the draft copies. I also wish to thank Tim Howson from Ben Rhydding who has in a very effective and painstaking way word processed all my work on this lengthy project about Ilkley in Wartime. Thanks are also

due to Ilkley and Skipton public libraries (for utilising past copies of the Craven Herald).

Richard Thackrah has been a resident of Ilkley for two spells over the last six decades. He gained his degrees in History, Geography and Education and has taught in primary, secondary and adult education. He has written textbooks reference books and general interest books, including a “Guide to Ilkley” and “Victorian Yorkshire” both published by the “Dalesman” and articles and short pieces for the “Ilkley Gazette”.

Tim Howson worked in the Information Technology sector for a prolonged spell after a Masters in Computing from Bradford University. Since then he has gained a Masters in Conservation and Land Management, from Bangor University, and works part-time in moorland restoration but still keeps up to date with technology and put together the database these booklets have been based on. He is currently a committee member and the webmaster for the Wharfedale Naturalists’ Society.

Richard Thackrah (www.ainola.co.uk)

Bell, Barbara

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Auxiliary Territorial Service

Experience:

IG 1/1/43.

In hospital in South England suffering injuries received by enemy action. Severe injuries to the head, face and eyes. Lost sight in one eye and other in danger. Blinded on train in December 1942 while going to attend a course. As the train neared London an enemy plane attacked. She had been in the ATS 6 months and had won two stripes as height finder in a mixed AA battery. She learnt Braille and how to type.

Bennett, B.G.

Rank:

Sgt

Regiment:

RAF

Experience:

IG 3/9/43.

Member of crew Stirling bomber caught fire over Berlin in late August 1943. Attacked by Messerschmidt which rear gunner then shot down. Fusilage fire put out with extinguishers. Sgt Bennet in serious condition in UK hospital.

Brooks, Eric

Age:

23

Rank:

Gunner

Regiment:

Ilkley Territorials

Pre-war Occupations:

Quarry man - In Skipton.

War Regions:

Middle East

Experience:

IG 24/7/42.

A member of Ilkley Territorials and called up in 1939. Overseas since Christmas 1941. Wounded in action in the Middle East.

Bruce, Richard

Age:

20

Rank:

Ldg Aircraftman & machine gunner

Regiment:

RAF

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 31/5/40.

France 1939 - 40. Slight wound in arm. 18 year old brother an electrician in the RAF.

Burt, Peter C.

Rank:

Capt

Regiment:

Royal Tank Regiment

War Regions:

Middle East

Experience:

IG 26/2/43.

Wounded in the Middle East and now out of hospital.
Wounded in the head as his unit entered Tripoli and he entered city in an ambulance. He spent a month in hospital before rejoining his unit.

Cawood, Albert

Age:

22

Regiment:

ASC

Pre-war Occupations:

Unknown - Messrs Coompton Parkinson, Guisley.

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 31/5/40.

Wounded in leg while serving with the ASC in France. He was surrounded by the enemy and was in hand to hand fighting. 37 German prisoners were captured. He had a spell in hospital in England in May and June 1940.

Coupland, Perris

Age:

19

Rank:

Rifleman

Regiment:

Scottish Cameronian Rifles

Pre-war Occupations:

WH Smith and Son, The Grove.

War Regions:

Netherlands, Belgium

Experience:

IG 5/1/45.

His brother Gunner Aubrey Coupland was serving with the RA in India. Joined army in Feb 1944 and sent to Holland in October 1944. Recovered from wounds in the UK whilst fighting in Holland. He had been reported missing, then found in a Casualty Clearing Station near the Front and moved to Belgium.

Douthwaite, William

Rank:

Gunner

Pre-war Occupations:

Window Cleaner employed Mr Roland Powell

War Regions:

Italy, Middle East

Experience:

IG 26/1/45.

4 years in the Middle East and leave after 1 year. Badly wounded in trying to rescue people trapped in minefield in Salerno (Italy). He was angered by Italian prisoners treatment in the UK - yet British prisoners lived in hovels in Italy. 2 brothers - one in Holland and one in a Japanese prison camp for three years.

Featherstone, Geoffery

Rank:

Bombardier

Pre-war Occupations:

Upholsterer - Messrs Hartley and Sons, Cowpasture Road, Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Normandy)

Experience:

IG 4/8/44.

Wounded in Normandy and brought to hospital in the UK by plane.

Ford, John

Age:

24

Rank:

Lt

Regiment:

Royal Tank Regiment

War Regions:

Middle East, India

Experience:

IG 9/1/42; 9/4/43; 18/5/45.

Joined Royal Tank Regiment Jan 39; commissioned Aug 39; to Middle East June 41.

Missing now safe but in hospital. Good progress. Wounded in thigh and one of his ears damaged in North Africa fighting. His father was with Maufe and Galloway 28/3/1942 when they were blown up by a trench mortar at Blubberhouses. John Ford (senior) was injured about the head and face.

Lieutenant Ford then prisoner again (missing since 20/6/1942) Has taken part in fighting ar Bir Bulafar in Libya where he was wounded and taken as a POW to a Greek Hospital. Then by train as a POW to Germany where he was in two camps Stalag 8B and Oflag 7B. In one of these camps was another Ilkley man Lt Philip K Wicksteed who was taken as a prisoner in Greece.

Forrest, R.H.

Age:

30

Rank:

L/Cpl

Regiment:

KOSB - Airbourne D division

Pre-war Occupations:

Cabinet maker

War Regions:

Arnhem

Experience:

IG 17/11/44; 9/2/45.

With glider troops who landed at Arnhem - wounded in left shoulder on second day 20/9/1944 by aerial shell and picked up by the Germans 30 hours later. Treated in hospital in Nuremberg. He was told he would be repatriated in October 1944, but since then had been in 7 different camps.

Galer, James

Rank:

Pte

Regiment:

East Yorkshire - 2

Pre-war Occupations:

Fireman - LMS Railway Company.

Experience:

IG 16/6/44.

Served as a driver in Bren gun carrier in 2nd East Yorkshire Regiment. In army since January 1942 and to Normandy in June 1944. Slight wounds in France and in Alexandria Hospital in Portsmouth and then Dudley Street Hospital in Birmingham.

His eldest brother J.J. Galer (Pte in Green Howards), died of wounds in North Africa April 1943 and second brother Lance Bombdr D.F. Galer (AA) serving with Forces in Italy.

Hardy, Leslie

Pre-war Occupations:

Tunnicliffes Garage, Skipton Road, Ilkley.

War Regions:

Belgium

Experience:

IG 6/4/45.

Served in mobile workshop unit on the Western Front.
Accident on duty and various injuries to the body and shoulder.
3 operations and making satisfactory progress in Hospital in
Belgium. Some time before he could resume duties.

Harland, Douglas

Age:

21

Rank:

Pte

Regiment:

Leicestershire Regiment - 2

Pre-war Occupations:

Clerk - At goods office at Ilkley station - then to Leeds & Bingley.

War Regions:

Middle East

Experience:

IG 25/7/41.

Called up May 1940. Wounded while serving with the infantry regiment in the Middle East.

Heap, John

Age:
28

Rank:
3rd Engineer

Experience:
IG 7/5/43.

In hospital after his ship torpedoed.

Holden, Jim

Rank:

Pte

Regiment:

Border Regiment - 9

Pre-war Occupations:

Walmsley's Grocery Store, Ilkley.

War Regions:

Burma

Experience:

IG 26/5/44.

Joined 1939 & in May 1942 sent to serve with the forces in the Far East. Wounded while fighting in Burma.

Hudson, Ernest

Rank:

Lt

Regiment:

TA

Pre-war Occupations:

Leeds accountant.

War Regions:

Italy, Greece

Experience:

IG 5/1/45.

Territorials 1939 - called up 3/9/39. Wounded: initially while serving with infantry unit in Italy in August 44 and then again in Greece in late 1944.

Ingram, John P.

Age:

29

Rank:

Lt

Regiment:

Duke of Wellington

Pre-war Occupations:

Unknown - C.F. Taylor & Co Ltd, Shipley - father was joint Managing Director.

Experience:

IG 29/9/44.

Recruited 1939. 2 years in Iceland and became Captain. In a N.E. Military hospital after badly smashed leg - attached to landing craft unit in D-Day operations and wounded 29/6/44.

Volunteered for landing craft and accepted a lower rank.

Knaggs, G.

Rank:

Pte

Pre-war Occupations:

Painter and Decorator - Brown & Clarkson.

War Regions:

Italy, Middle East

Experience:

IG 29/9/44.

Joined up in 1940 and to the Middle East for 2 years. Wounded in Italy.

Lancaster, Leslie

Age:

28

Rank:

Regimental Sergeant Major

Regiment:

TA, Commandos

Pre-war Occupations:

Mr Kinjies Nurseries

War Regions:

Burma, Madagascar

Experience:

IG 30/6/44.

Took part in Madagascar Campaign (1942). Territorials 1939 and called up - had been with them since 1932 / Troop Sgt Major and Instructor (RA) and transferred to the Commandos 1940 when they first formed. In March 1944 in Burma struck by several pieces of shrapnel from a mortar bomb which exploded nearby and spent 8 weeks in Calcutta Hospital in India.

Lawrence, William A.

Age:

24

Rank:

Sgt

Regiment:

RAF

Awards:

Promotion - Promoted to Flight Sgt immediately after reported gone missing.

War Regions:

Denmark

Experience:

IG 10/7/42; 25/5/45.

Reported missing after raid on battleship "Prince Eugen" in May 1942 and then wrongly stated by Swedish Red X to be safe in hospital there.

Shot down 17/5/1942 over Denmark and wounded in right foot and broke leg landing into cornfield. In Danish and German hospitals and then to Schleswig where kept in a small room 18ft x 10ft with two Canadians, 1NZ and 3 Russians.

Moved to Stalag 8B and shackled at the ankles after Dieppe raid. Wrists fastened with string for 6 weeks and then for 14 months shackled. Stayed behind when Russians near, but Germans found them and put them on train South. Escaped and picked

up in Czechoslovakia and handed to Gestapo. 2 weeks in prison and then on another train and escaped again. Found by Russians near Elbe. 3 weeks with the Russians and then to US lines on Elbe.

Laycock, Peter W

Age:

21

Rank:

Capt; Major

War Regions:

Italy, North Africa, Sicily

Experience:

IG 14/5/43.

Overseas Feb 43. Wounded while with infantry unit of 1st Army in North Africa. Later in Sicily and Italy. Battalion Bren Gun Carrier Officer. His elder brother Sergeant Eric Laycock served with Australian Artillery in Port Darwin where he had been since October 1941. In Ilkley he was an RUFC player.

IG 29/3/45

Wedding. Married Mlle Viviane Nivelles elder daughter of Mr & Mrs Henni Nivelles, Brussels. Met at Allied Troops concert in Brussels. A Nivelles ballet dancer (aged 21) met Laycock when taking part in the concert.

Lister, Harry D.

Rank:

Trooper

Regiment:

Royal Tanks Corps

Pre-war Occupations:

Unknown - Mr Binks confectioner, Church Street, Ilkley.

Experience:

IG 23/3/45.

Joined Tanks Corps BEF Dunkirk to Africa - armoured Unit and in Alamein (Egypt) then to Italy and assault unit R.A.C. Injured during a motor journey to Rome where he expected to spend 7 days leave. In hospital with a fractured spine and injuries to his kidneys and head.

McCarthy, Fred

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Royal Engineers, Royal Corps Signals

War Regions:

North Africa, Tunisia

Experience:

IG 28/5/43.

Cpl in RE then course in Radiolocation and transferred to the Royal Corps Signals. Overseas in February 1943. Wounded in left foot in the final stages of the Tunisia Campaign and in hospital in North Africa. Two months in a French Hospital in Algiers and now back in Ilkley.

Myers, Sydney

Age:

39

Rank:

Sgt

Pre-war Occupations:

Butcher - Coop Butcher pre gasworks., Unknown - Ilkley Gasworks.

Experience:

IG 9/3/45.

Recruited in 1940. Overseas April 1941. Road accident in Cairo - knocked down by a tram and in hospital. Lord Moyne was in the same hospital (after he was shot) in an attempt to keep him alive. Egyptians unfriendly to Allies. German POW's in Egypt were granted too much freedom and priviledges.

'Get you home' service half an hour after contact with Ilkley taxi in Leeds to bring him home.

Nuttall, Stanley

Age:

19

Rank:

Pte

Regiment:

KOSB - Airbourne D division

Pre-war Occupations:

Gardener - Craiglunds.

Experience:

IG 16/3/45.

Recruited in October 1944, in army since March 1943.
Wounded in right ear in Western Europe. His eldest brother
Fusilier Harry Simpson was killed in action in Italy while serving
with the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Oliver, A.G.G.

Age:

21

Rank:

Lt

War Regions:

Burma

Experience:

IG 12/1/45.

He was concerned and angry that transport in Bradford was only for B.L.A. (British Land Army) man and not for East theatre personnel. He was at Bradford station hours before he was taken to Ben Rhydding. In Burma 2 years blowing up bridges behind enemy lines and often landing by glider on aerodromes made behind Japanese lines. They were skilful and brave then rations limited and their toughness weakened and they became demoralised. 14th Army fighting over difficult territory and doing a wonderful job.

Wounded in foot in 1944. In Army for three and a half years (June 41) overseas Jan 43 after OTCV.

Polli, Henry

Rank:

Sgt

Regiment:

Royal Engineers

Pre-war Occupations:

Chef - In Leeds, Ilkley & Halifax.

War Regions:

Middle East

Experience:

IG 27/11/42.

Injured and in hospital in the Middle East - now out of hospital and doctor's saved his life.

Rawson, Mac

Age:

19

Rank:

Pte

Pre-war Occupations:

Café worker - Kiosk Café on the Grove.

War Regions:

North-West Europe

Experience:

IG 23/3/45.

Severely wounded in both hands by a grenade thrown when he was searching for snipers at Goch in Germany. He had landed at Ostend and saw action on the Siegfried line. Joined Army Sept 1943.

3 days earlier, before he was wounded, a shell had dropped at his feet and failed to explode.

Rawson, Lewis

Age:

21

Rank:

Pte

Regiment:

Royal Tanks Corps

Pre-war Occupations:

Employed by Messrs Denbys Ltd, Leeds Road, Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Normandy), France

Experience:

IG 23/3/45.

Wounded in Caen while serving with the Royal Tank Corps.
Flown home and a period in hospital and rejoined his unit.
Landed on D-Day.

Ross, Ian McKay

Age:

23

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

London Scottish

Pre-war Occupations:

Civil Servant

War Regions:

Italy

Experience:

IG 29/9/44.

London Scottish in the 8th Army. Wounded in Italy and after 2 operations making good progress.

Stott, Kenneth

Age:

21

Rank:

Rifleman

Regiment:

Kings Royal Rifle Corps

Pre-war Occupations:

Clerical Officer - Air Ministry, London.

War Regions:

France (Normandy)

Experience:

IG 14/7/44.

Rejected by RAF on Medical grounds in 1941. Joined Kings Royal Rifle Corps and to France June 1944. Wounded while on active service in Normandy.

Swanston, Alan

Age:

30

Rank:

Sgt

Regiment:

Royal Artillery

Pre-war Occupations:

Army - Regular army 14 years.

War Regions:

Italy

Experience:

IG 16/3/45.

Instructor with Artillery Officer Cadet Unit. Remarkable operation on Swaston by army surgeons. He was in a tent in Italy when a shell exploded nearby and shrapnel splinter was lodged in his brain. An operation was as last resort. Shrapnel was extracted and an amazing recovery by Mr Swanston. His sight was affected and he could not concentrate for long periods. His progress to recovery was miraculous.

Young, G.M.

Age:

33

Rank:

Major

Regiment:

Royal Scots

Pre-war Occupations:

Second English Master - Blackpool GS.

War Regions:

North Africa, Sicily

Experience:

IG 23/6/44.

Joined Army in 1940 Scots Guards then onto another unit with commission and fought in North Africa and Sicily. Wounded in arm and abdomen.